

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:280
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
GAP BETWEEN DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF COAL
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Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the gap between demand and supply of coal has been increasing day-by-day;
- (b) if so, the facts and the Comparative figures for the past three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government have formulated any schemes to bridge the gap; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL & MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a)&(b): Demand of Coal is determined by Planning Commission in consultation with various coal consumer sectors. The materialisation of demand often varies from the initial estimates. Part of the demand is fulfilled by the consumers through imports of coal, while bulk of the demand is taken care of through indigenous coal supplies.

The details of demand assessed by the Planning Commission and actual supply of coal from indigenous sources for the last three years and the current year is as under:-

(in million tonnes)

Year	Demand	Supply
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1999-2000	331.03	307.53
2000-2001	333.85	319.60
2001-2002	354.29	330.55
2002-2003	363.30	+336.10

+ anticipated supply.

(c)&(d): The following steps have been taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal.

i) Coal import has been placed under Open General Licence.

ii) Allotment of coal mining blocks for captive end use; 27 blocks have already been allotted to different parties for captive use.

iii) The Coal Mines (Nationalization) Amendment Bill 2000 to open coal sector for private sector participation without restriction of captive consumption, has been introduced in the Parliament.

iv) Revision of coal mining policy - State Governments have been allowed to open underground and opencast mines without any restriction of 'Isolated small pockets'.